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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO [redacted] 25X1

CD NO

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COUNTRY	Azerbaijan SSR	DATE DISTR	[illegible] March 1952
SUBJECT	Reservoir under Construction near Mingechaur	NO OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted]	NO OF ENCLS (LISTED BELOW)	2 (3 pages)
DATE OF INFO.	[redacted]	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO	

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[redacted]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. A reservoir dam was planned on the Kura River near Mingechaur (40°45'N/47°03'E)(1) The dam was to have a width of 400 meters at the bottom, a maximum height of 50 meters, and a length of 2.2 km. (2) The reservoir was to be about 35 km long, 20 km wide, and about 40 meters deep. At the dam the Kura River is about 300 meters wide and has a maximum depth of 2.5 to 3 meters. Its rate of flow is 2 meters per second at normal water level. The dam was scheduled to be completed in 1950. Work on its construction could be started only after completion of a temporary canal.

2. The temporary canal, on whose construction source was employed, was 40 meters wide and 16 meters deep. The water intake and exit sections were 150 meters long. The main section, i.e. the section through the dam, was 400 meters long. The water of the canal was led through the dam by four pipes, each 10 meters high and 7 meters wide. (3) The concrete bottom and sides of the pipes were 2.5 meters thick, while the ceiling was 3 meters thick. The pipes had double reinforcements with 14 iron rods per meter. These rods were 50 mm in diameter. The modern welding was done by the Prom Combine. This canal was to be filled up again after the completion of the permanent supply canal.

3. Another canal was being excavated to serve as an overflow canal to prevent floods in the spring. This canal was to be used after completion of the dam.

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4. [redacted] the plans for the turbine house connected with the dam. These plans indicated that 10 chute pipes and 10 rising pipes were to be reconstructed. The location of the turbine house was determined from plans for the exit section of the temporary canal. It was planned to start the operation of this power plant in three steps in accordance with progress on the construction of the reservoir dam. As soon as the dam had reached a third of its projected height, part of the power plant installation was scheduled to start operating. Since the height of fall would be rather low at that time, the output of current would be less than a third of the final capacity.

5. The project had a labor force of up to 3,000 PWs and 2,000 forced laborers in

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[illegible]; and about 1,000 rds remained after August 1949. The large labor force was needed for preliminary work for the project, such as the erection of settlements and auxiliary installations and the construction of the railroad line to Yevlakh (40°37'N/47°09'E), which was 35 km long. The bridge over the Kura River was completed by May 1949.

6. During 1947 - 1949 the settlement, which was projected to house 70,000 inhabitants, had a capacity of 15,000 people. [redacted] the construction 25X1
of the power plant did not require a labor force of 70,000. In August 1949 it was learned that plans for an aluminum project near Khaldan, 15 km downstream from the projected power plant, were anxiously awaited from Moscow. (4)

25X1 [redacted] Comments.

(1) For sketch indicating the location of the dam and nearby installations, see Annex 1. The prominent bend of the Kura River to the south upstream from the bridge does not show on the sketch. The road to Yevlakh and the buildings on its side should be turned 45° to the right. This road curves to the south to Yevlakh.
(2) See Annex 2, sketch B, for a sketch of a cross section of the dam indicating its various construction stages.
(3) See Annex 2, sketch A, for a sketch of these pipes.
(4) Although data regarding the dimensions of the canals, tunnel pipes and the dam slightly vary from previous records, the bulk of the information agrees with a previous report and is therefore considered approximately correct. The following details were published by the Soviet press: Length of the dam: 1.5 km; width at the bottom: 0.5 km; length of tunnel: 0.5 km; height of dam: 77 meters. The reservoir will contain 16 billion cubic meters of water, will have a maximum length of 50 km, a maximum width of 14 km, and a maximum depth of 80 meters. The power plant scheduled to start partial operation in 1950 will be equipped with five turbines with a total capacity of 300,000 kw. A capacity of 150,000 kw was scheduled for 1950. The final annual output of power plant will be 1.3 billion kwh. The plant will supply power to the industrial centers of Baku (40°25'N/49°50'E) and Kirovabad (40°41'N/46°22'E) and to the Baku-Tbilisi electrified railroad line. A power transmission line to Baku with a length of about 300 km was already completed. The same is assumed for the power line supplying the electrified railroad. The project of an aluminum plant in Khaldan to be supplied by the Mingechaur power plant does not seem probable. It is rather assumed that the occupants of the settlement will work in local industrial plants to be constructed.

2 Annexes: 3 sketches on two dittos.